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## Gallatin City-County Health Department

### Human Services

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### Gallatin County Weekly Communicable Disease Report August 20-26, 2008

#### Reportable :

3 Dog Bites  
3 Campylobacter  
2 Chlamydia  
1 Giardia  
1 HIV  
1 Cat Bite  
1 E.Coli 0157  
1 Hepatitis A  
1 Hepatitis B  
1 Hepatitis C

#### Non- Reportable :

33 Streptococcus  
2 Mononucleosis  
1 Shingles

**Montana Communicable Disease Weekly Update: 08/27/08 Summary – Weeks 32 & 33**– Disease reports received at DPHHS during the reporting period August 3-16, 2008 included campylobacter, cryptosporidium, giardia, salmonella, shigella, non-0157 STEC, infant botulism, viral meningitis, and animal rabies (bat).

**West Nile Virus Surveillance** – One human case has been reported to date from Richland County. Mosquito sampling continues; MTPHL testing of mosquito pools from 19 counties throughout the states have confirmed the presence of WNV in pools from: Blaine, Cascade, Lewis & Clark, and Sheridan Counties. Three horses have tested positive in Jefferson and Lake Counties. As of August 26, 2008, a total of 34 states had reported 342 cases (3 deaths) of human WNV illness to CDC. Cases have been reported from our neighbors in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho and Utah. For national updates: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>.

**Diarrheal Illness – PFGE Testing** - The Montana Public Health Laboratory (MTPHL) is a participant in PulseNet, a national network of public health and food regulatory agency laboratories coordinated by the CDC. PulseNet participants perform standardized molecular subtyping (or "fingerprinting") of diarrheal disease causing bacteria by pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE). The DNA patterns are submitted electronically to a dynamic database at CDC and these databases are available to participants for rapid comparison of the patterns. PulseNet is used as an early warning system enabling professionals to rapidly compare infectious strains of certain bacteria in effort to effectively

reduce the time needed to respond to regional and national outbreaks. If you see cases of salmonellosis, shigellosis, toxin producing *E. coli*, *Vibrio sp.* or listeriosis, please submit the isolates to MTPHL for PFGE testing at no charge. The results from this testing are used in epidemiological investigation and surveillance related to these diseases. For information on specimen submission and Pulsed Field Gel Electrophoresis testing at: <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/Lab/pdf/Molecular%20Biology.doc> or contact the MTPHL at 800-821-7284.

**Rabies Vaccine Availability** - Effective immediately and until further notice, Novartis will **require health care providers to obtain a confirmation code** from state or local health departments before releasing rabies vaccine doses for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). This is being done to ensure that adequate rabies exposure risk assessments are done at the local level so that the limited supply of rabies vaccine doses for PEP are used appropriately. RabAvert (Novartis) is the **ONLY** rabies vaccine **currently available**.

- Healthcare providers (emergency rooms, urgent care, clinics) can only obtain rabies PEP after consultation with local public health department in order to obtain confirmation code required to order rabies vaccine doses for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) from Novartis
- Local public health departments must consult with MTDPHHS Communicable Disease Epidemiology staff at (406) 444-0273 (24/7/365) in order to obtain password to allow providers to order rabies vaccine doses for PEP
- Local public health departments should obtain the following information prior to consultation with MTDPHHS: (1) details of exposure situation, including type of exposure and number of persons exposed; (2) pharmacy and provider contact information (phone/fax)

Vaccine can be ordered from Novartis by calling 1-800-244-7668, option 2. Effective August 15, 2008, a *health department confirmation code is REQUIRED to order vaccine*. Vaccine for rabies PEP is released by Novartis on a case-by-case basis and shipped to health care providers. It may take up to 2 days for vaccine to be received. This delay should not represent an increased risk to most patients. Clinicians should inform Novartis of especially high-risk exposures (including bites to the head, face and neck) to request expedited shipment.

There have been five rabies positive bats and one dog this summer in Montana in the following counties: Cascade, Dawson, Park, Powell, Wheatland and Yellowstone Counties. Bat exclusion information can be found at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/epidemiology/commun-disease-epi-index.shtml>.